Employment opportunities

2056.SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employment opportunities in organised and unorganized sectors in the country have been decreasing continuously for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the factors attributed thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for the remedy of the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) No Sir. Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of survey on employment and unemployment, work force on usual status basis has increased from 397 million in 1999-2000 to 459.10 million in 2004-05 registering an average growth rate of 2.95 percent per annum.

The employment in organized sector has increased from 26.46 million in the year (2004-05) to 27.27 million in 2006-07. The last available data for the unorganized sector relates to the period 2004-05 which has registered an increase from 369.0 million in 1999-2000 to 432.64 million in 2004-05.

Safety and health of workers

2057.SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that work-related mortality rate as well as occupational linked diseases of industrial workers are increasing every year in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to improve safety and health of workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The work related mortality rate (incidence rate of fatalities per 1000 workers) in respect of industrial workers and cases of occupational diseases In factories covered under the Factories Act, 1948 are given in the Statement (see below). The mortality incidence rate is on the decline. Moreover except for the year 2006 the number of cases of occupational diseases reported are also declining.

(c) Adequate provisions already exist in Factories Act, 1948 and rules framed thereunder, which are implemented by the State Governments through Inspectors of Factories appointed under Section 8 of the Act, and any violation thereof would result in prosecutions. State Governments also undertake various educational and promotional activities such as training of employees, celebration of safety weeks etc. Besides, the Ministry of Labour and Employment through Directorate General of